

La Bandera de Guatemala



The coat of arms includes a green and red quetzal (the national bird) and a scroll bearing the inscription LIBERTAD 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1821 (the original date of independence from Spain). The Quetzal represents liberty because supposedly the bird can not live in captivity. The blue strips on each side represent the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Currency: 1 quetzal (Q) = 100 centavos

Literacy Rate: 54%

Exports: Coffee, sugar, bananas

Official language: Spanish (large percentage of Indigenous dialects spoken)

Major Religion: Roman Catholic, Protestant, traditional Mayan

República de Guatemala (Republic of Guatemala)

Capital: Guatemala (The country is known as the “Land of Eternal Spring” because of it’s temperate climate)

Area: 42,043 sq miles (Slightly smaller than Tennessee)

Population: 11.4 million 42% urban 58% rural

Ethnic Divisions: 56% Mestizo (ladino)
44% Amerindian (mostly of Maya descent)

Important Cities: Guatemala, Mixco, Quetzaltenango, Chichicastenango

Geographic Regions:

North: Petén region-forests and rainforests, Mayan ruins
West: Sierra Madre
East: Carribean Coast

Major Rivers: Río Motagua (marks the border with Honduras), Río Sarstún (marks the border with Belize)

National Heros: Rigoberta Menchú

Highest Peak: Volcán Tajumulco (13,845 ft), highest peak in Central America

National Sports: Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball